

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Zhou et al.

Application No.: 09/283,431 Group: 1635

Filed: April 1, 1999 Examiner: Tracy Ann Vivlemore

Confirmation No.: 9988

For: MIXED BACKBONE OLIGONUCLEOTIDES TO REDUCE
PHOSPHOROTHIOATE CONTENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

This Reply is responsive to the Office Action mailed February 8, 2006. A request for a one month extension of time accompanies this Reply. Accordingly, this Reply is due on June 8, 2006.

Claims 4-25 are pending in the application. Claims 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Manoharan, US 6,277,967. Claims 15-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Manoharan. Claims 4-11 are also provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over co-pending Application No. 10/291,058 because this is not the only rejection of the claims remaining. Each basis for rejection is separately addressed below.